

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RECIFE 00082 171735Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-08 COME-00 FAA-00  
DOTE-00 EUR-12 L-03 /044 W  
-----047752 171834Z /53

P 171600Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5869  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS RECIFE 0082

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, CDES, CPRS, BR  
SUBJECT: CRASH OF U.S. OWNED AIRPLANE IN FORTALEZA, BRAZIL

REF: SCS-HOFFENBERG TELCON OF 4/15/78

1. CONSULATE CONFIRMS THAT U.S. OWNED AIRCRAFT, REGISTRY NUMBER N6657L, CRASHED NEAR FORTALEZA, BRAZIL AT 14:30 ON APRIL 13, AND THAT THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO FAA WASHINGTON, PLANE IS REGISTERED AS PROPERTY OF MR. WILLIAM STERN OF MANCHESTER, NH.

2. PILOT OF PLANE, MR. LASZIO SERENCZ, IS HUNGARIAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN WEST GERMANY AND NOT U.S. CITIZEN AS BELIEVED EARLIER. HIS REMAINS ARE IN A MORGUE IN FORTALEZA AND HIS FAMILY IN GERMANY AND THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN BRAZIL HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF HIS DEATH.

3. ACCORDING TO BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE OFFICIALS IN FORTALEZA, THE PLANE CRASHED IN A LAKE NEAR THE AIRPORT AND WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THEY WERE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE AIRCRAFT DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS THE PILOT'S PERSONAL EFFECTS AND ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO SALVAGE WHAT EQUIPMENT THEY CAN FROM THE WRECKAGE. ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE AIR BASE, ALL PAPERS ARE IN ORDER  
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CONCERNING THE AIRCRAFT AND ITS PRESENCE IN BRAZIL.

4. DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO CONTACT THE OWNERS OF THE PLANE FOR INSTRUCTIONS FOR ITS DISPOSAL IN BRAZIL AND TO FORWARD THIS CABLE TO THE FAA AND THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD.  
HOFFENBERG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014